



VOLUME 1

WINNIPEG, MAN., OCTOBER, 1944

NUMBER 1

OUR PARISH MESSENGER

At our Sixtieth Synodical Convention which was held in the Argyle district last June, the Executive Committee of Synod was instructed to investigate the possibility of launching a parish paper in the English language, to serve as a medium for the exchange of news and views between the various congregations and communities of our Synod. That there is a need for such a publication appeared obvious to all. In a scattered constituency, such as ours, there is the ever present danger of isolationism and provincialism, which retards, if it does not make impossible the normal fellowship, and synodical consciousness which is necessary for a healthy and progressive group activity. One congregation is hardly aware of the existence of its sister congregation consisting of the same racial group, cherishing the same ideals and aspirations. Where there is no unity of thought, it is difficult to realize unity of action.

Consequently, the Executive Committee, which had been given power to act in this matter, if it should see its way clear to do so, decided at the last meeting to make an effort along this line and publish a monthly parish paper, beginning in October, 1944. The Pastor of the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, was assigned the task of editing the paper for the time being. The first task confronting the editor was that of selecting the name of the publication. Being a pastor, he is more used to asking: "What is the name of the child?" than to decide such matters. The name was therefore a vexing problem. What is in a name? A great deal, indeed, as we of Icelandic extraction well know. An unfortunate name of an individual, institution, or country can do irreparable harm. The same is no less true of a paper of this kind. A name is something like a flag; it indicates origin, aims and purposes. We have tried to incorporate all these features in the name "Our Parish Messenger". This is to be **Our** paper. It is

the joint property of all the members of the Synod. This paper is not to be regarded as the brain child of its present or future editors, or launched at his initiative; it is to be, indeed it must if it is to have any future at all, be a co-operative enterprise in which all the members of the Synod must take an active interest and lend active support. It is to be our paper. It is to be a **Parish** paper, conveying news from the various congregations. Its very life will depend on whether or not it will be so regarded and supported. It is to be a **Messenger**-bringing information, and above all a messenger of good will and mutual understanding of men and matters between its readers.

The future of this effort rests in your hands. The name may perhaps be changed later if someone finds a happier one. We place the paper in your hands, hoping that it will be found useful and worthy of your support.

A FEW ITEMS OF NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

When we were assembled in convention at Glenboro and Argyle last June, we had some hope that we might soon be able to secure a new Pastor for the Mission field of our Synod. The young man in question was a Mr. Robert Jack, a young Scotchman, who had just graduated from the Theological Department of the University of Iceland. We realized that Mr. Jack could speak English and Icelandic with equal fluency, and so he seemed to fit our situation real well. We had also heard that he was an outstanding athlete and we felt that would be a further point in his favor. Unfortunately we know now that the Rev. Mr. Robert Jack (he has been ordained by the Bishop of Iceland) will not be coming here at this time. He has accepted a parish in Iceland.

About the middle of July, the Executive Board of our Synod convened at Gimli, Man.,

in the summer homes of Rev. and Mrs. V. J. Eylands and Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Fafnis. Time was limited and we could not deal with all the subjects that we wanted to consider. But we dealt fairly extensively with the subject of a new Synod Bulletin or Paper in the English language. This publication is to serve as a bond between our scattered parishes and keep each parish informed as to the activities in the others. News and views of our congregations and our Synod as a whole, will loom large in the new publication. It was agreed to publish a sample copy early in October. Rev. V. J. Eylands, of First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Man., was chosen Editor.

The Board discussed plans for the 60th Anniversary of our Synod, to be observed in connection with our Synod convention in Winnipeg in 1945. The One Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of our pioneer leader, Dr. J. Bjarnason, long time president of our Synod and Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, was discussed with interest and enthusiasm.

Many items were touched upon and disposition was made of several of the points referred to the Board by the convention in June.

Late in July the President journeyed to Wynyard, Sask., and surrounding communities. He had received leave of absence from his parish for a while to visit this large Saskatchewan parish, where no pastor is serving at the present time.

The President was able to spend only two weeks there. During his stay he conducted eight services of worship, five on the two Sundays that he was there and three on week-days. He baptized seven children and performed one marriage ceremony. He also spoke at three other functions. He visited about thirty-five homes in the district conferring with a large number of individuals. The need for a permanent resident Pastor is very pressing there. We sincerely hope and pray that we may find a man for the field at an early date. In the meantime we, the Pastors of our Synod, must try to give them a week or two of services now and then.

On Sunday, Sept. 3rd, the President installed the Rev. Skuli J. Sigurgeirsson in his new parish, the Gimli, Man., Parish. The installation service was held in the Gimli Church and was well attended in spite of rain and very bad roads. The President was assisted in this service by the members of the Mission Committee of our Synod. Rev. B. A. Bjarnason conducted the service and Revs. E. H. Fafnis

and V. J. Eylands delivered the charge to the Pastor and congregations respectively. The President preached the sermon. A reception was tendered the visitors of the parish by the trustees at Gimli at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Paulson.

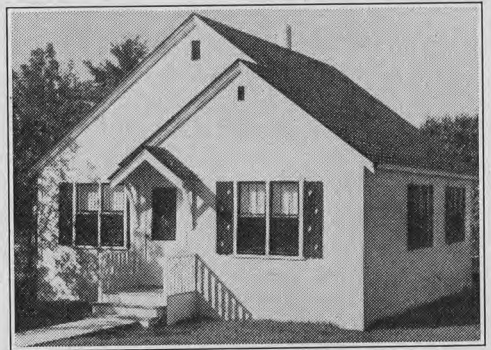
In the morning of the same Sunday, the President introduced the new Pastor, Rev. Mr. Sigurgeirsson at Bethel Old Folks' Home, which is a part of the Gimli Parish. Rev. Mr. Sigurgeirsson conducted a service there at 9.30 a.m. and the President preached the sermon. They were received with great friendliness and hospitality at the Home.

All the congregations of the Gimli Parish have fine churches, each in its own locality. Gimli church is a fine structure with a very creditable seating capacity and very churchly appointments.

On Monday, Sept. 4th, the President went to Lundar, Man., for a short conference with the members of the Board of Trustees of Lundar church. He returned to Winnipeg next day and conferred briefly with the Vice-President of Synod, Rev. V. J. Eylands, Mr. J. J. Swanson, Secretary of the Board of Bethel Old Folks' Home, S. O. Bjerring, Treasurer of the Synod and others. On Wednesday, Sept. 6th, he returned again to his home at Mountain, N.D.



THE GIMLI LUTHERAN PARSONAGE



Shortly after the Rev. and Mrs. Skuli Sigurgeirsson took charge of the Gimli Parish they moved into the lovely little Parsonage shown above. This is the first Parsonage that the Gimli Parish has ever owned; all their former ministers have either owned or rented their homes. This house was built with the aid of the Missions Committee of the Synod, and the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Rev. Sigurgeirsson has the distinction of being the first Icelandic Lutheran Pastor ever to graduate from a Canadian Seminary. He graduated last spring from the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon, of which our well known Dr. Willison is the President.

FROM YOUR SEATTLE CHURCH

The founders of this West Coast Church named it Hallgrims Congregation in honor of Iceland's Passion Poet, the much beloved Hallgrímur Petursson. The congregation bought a church building from the Calvary Methodist Congregation of Ballard, which was disbanding for the purpose of amalgamating with two other Methodist Churches. The building had been known as Calvary Church, and that name was unofficially adopted by our group. Now our church is spoken of as "Calvary Lutheran Church" when the English language is used, although the incorporated name is Hallgrims Congregation.

The people of Icelandic descent in this locality are to be commended for their courage in starting an Icelandic Church so far from the center of Icelandic activity, especially since they were few in number. But despite the many odds that were against them they acted on faith and bought a church and called a pastor. Despite the trying times of depression they overcame all obstacles and stayed with their cause and did prevail. The church was paid for in the year 1942. Since acquiring the church building they have been served by four pastors of our Icelandic Lutheran Synod: Runolfur Marteinsson, Kolbeinn Simundsson, Kristinn K. Olafson and the present pastor, Harald S. Sigmar.

The work is carried on chiefly in the English language. Services in that language are conducted each Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The third Sunday evening of each month we have Icelandic services regularly in addition to a few special services in that language. But although we use the "language of the land" our major objective is that of the Synod's, stated in the Constitution, Article 11a:

"The object of the Synod is to gather into its fold, as far as possible, all Lutherans of Icelandic descent on this continent as well as all others who naturally come within its sphere."

There are still a great number of unchurched people of Icelandic parentage in this city. It is our constant aim to reach them and their friends to bring them into contact with the saving Word of God.

The other aims of the Synod are ours too. We desire to "cultivate cooperation among all Lutherans in the promotion of the general interests of the church". We put that aim into practice by contributing over \$100.00 to Lutheran World Action last year. And we desire to grow in Grace that we may help "To extend the Kingdom of God by promoting the general program of the church at home and abroad".

Within the last year \$1,000.00 has been spent to repair and paint the church building. This work has included the painting of the outside of the building, restoration of art glass windows, painting and kalsomining the halls and Sunday School rooms and a recent project that has just been completed of renovating one of our Church School rooms including the installation of a lower "Masonite" ceiling. 25 men contributed their work in this connection.

Not content to rest on past laurels, the congregation is now in the midst of its "Grand Drive" in connection with its Parsonage Fund. A goal of \$6,800.00 was set by the committee. Whether to build or to buy a parsonage is as yet undecided.

The Ladies Aid, which has always been the strength and support of the congregation, has recently given a hundred Common Service Books to the Church to help meet the need in connection with the rapid growth of the Church and its steadily increasing attendance at Divine worship.

Our prayers are with the other Churches of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod of America even as we ask for your continued prayers in our behalf that we may go ever forward together in our God-given task of planting the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Harald S. Sigmar, Pastor,
Hallgrims Congregation,
Calvary Lutheran Church.

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE SEMINARY AND THE ASHRAM

It was my privilege and pleasure to attend the 9th Annual ASHRAM of the Lutheran Student Association of America at Camp Le Tourneau, Lake Canandaigua, N.Y. The Lutheran Student Association is an organization of College and Seminary students throughout this country and Canada who are members of the Lutheran Church, regardless of Synod affiliation. It functions through campus groups, regional conferences, and a representative council. The LSAA affords means by which Lutheran students may become acquainted with one another, consider and act upon common problems, and strengthen and encourage one another in Christian faith and in work for Christ and His Church. The aims of the LSAA are: 1. On every campus: To stimulate students in using the Bible privately and in groups, in prayer, in regular church attendance, and in frequent reception of Holy Communion; to encourage students in the study and appreciation

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of the Church's message and in loyal participation in the Church's work by personal activities and gifts; to develop healthy social life and strong Christian friendships; to develop a conscious need of Christ in facing modern life and problems. 2. To hold intercollegiate conferences in order to assist students on every campus to accomplish these purposes: 3. To build up a national and international fellowship of Lutheran students and to deepen understanding of and participation in ecumenical Christianity. In 1939 the Council sought and achieved affiliation with the World's Student Christian Federation. At this year's ASHRAM, or "National Convention" the theme was CHRISTIANITY IN THE WORLD TODAY. The main speakers were Dr. E. M. Carlson, President of Gustavus Adolphus College, who spoke on OUR FAITH; and Dr. F. E. Reinartz, Promotional Secretary of the U.L.C.A., who spoke on OUR MISSION.

There were also present other Lutheran leaders throughout the country who conducted study sessions, classes and seminars on many pertinent topics. There were also hours for music, sports and recreation. The Conference was attended by almost 300 Lutheran students from all parts of the United States and Canada. It was indeed an inspiration and a splendid experience to worship, to study, and to mingle with fellow Lutheran students from all over America.

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Mt. Airy Lutheran Seminary opened its first term of the 1944-45 school year on July 1st. It is the largest of the 13 Seminaries in the U.L.C.A., having an enrollment of 102 students. It is the only Lutheran seminary in the United States which has the V-12 Navy Chaplain Training program. At present there are 12 uniformed students here, who upon completion of their course will be sent to a specialized institution for Chaplain training. The writer is the third Icelandic student to study here. The late Rev. F. A. Bergman studied here in

the year 1886, and the Rev. H. S. Sigmar was graduated from here in the spring of 1943.

Eric H. Sigmar.

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINNIPEG

The past year was one of much activity and considerable progress in the First Lutheran Church. The keynote of the season was struck at the Home Coming Rally, on Sept. 26, where several of the leaders of the Church gave extemporaneous talks, each emphasizing the theme: Let us go forward! The substance of the addresses was: Our boys and many of our girls too, are engaged in a cruel war to safeguard the cause of liberty and humanity. We must not be satisfied with simply holding the home front; we must go forward so as to be in step with these, our young people, when they come back. We must keep our Church in good condition in every way so that our boys upon their return will be glad to join us in a further forward march toward progress and prosperity as an institution. That these were not mere words became evident early in December when the Board of Trustees announced the opening of a campaign for funds to pay the then remaining balance of the Church mortgage, amounting to \$4,500.00. The money was gathered in a remarkably short time and the mortgage burned with an appropriate program and ceremony on Friday, May 24th. The vestry was renovated during the winter and a room for Sunday School instruction, or general use added downstairs. The Board of Trustees, at a recent meeting decided to install a stoker in the Church, and to rearrange the heating system so as to make it possible to heat the lower auditorium, without wasting fuel to heat the entire building. This is a much needed improvement, and although costly, will pay for itself in time by reducing the fuel bill. The two Ladies Aids were as usual very active during the year, contributing a total of \$2,525 to the Church Treasury. In spite of depleted numbers the Young People's Society met regularly on Sunday evenings during the year. They sponsored a tea and a concert, the proceeds of which were turned over to the Mortgage Fund. On March 19 a Memorial Service was held for the late Rev. B. B. Jonsson, D.D., at which time a portrait in oil of him was unveiled by Dr. B. J. Brandson. A Roll of Honor was prepared and placed in the Church, containing the names of some 300 young men and women, members and associates of the congregation, now in the armed forces. His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, was present at the un-

veiling ceremony on Dec. 5th. The Soldiers' Welfare Committee of the Church prepared and sent 94 parcels to the boys overseas at Christmas, and again a like number at Easter.

A highlight of the season's activity in the Church was the visit paid us by His Grace, the Reverend Doctor Sigurgeir Sigurdsson, Bishop of Iceland, who preached at the evening service February 27th. It was the first time that a Bishop of Iceland came to Winnipeg. Dr. Sigurgeirsson endeared himself to those who met him everywhere, and the memory of his visit will long be cherished by the many who became his friends in our midst.

While the congregation prospered in many ways during the year, its members and friends have also frequently been visited by sorrow and irreparable loss. Early in the year, a service was dedicated to 17 of its sons who had become casualties of war, killed, missing, or imprisoned, and that number has increased considerably since that day.

On June 20th, the congregation lost its Honorary President in the passing from this life of Doctor Brandur J. Brandon. The voice of the congregation was expressed in a resolution which is found elsewhere in this paper.



IN NEW YORK

It was the good fortune of the Editor to be a member of a delegation of five men from Winnipeg to be invited by the Government of Iceland to go to New York, the last week of August, to meet Sveinn Bjornsson, the newly elected President of the Republic of Iceland, who, in the company of Vilhjalmur Thor, the Foreign Minister of Iceland, was invited to visit President Roosevelt at the White House in Washington. The trip was indeed delightful in every respect and will remain an unforgettable memory. The highlights of the President's visit to New York were his reception at the New York air field where he was met by the City's energetic Mayor La Guardia, Consul General and Mrs. Helgi P. Briem of New York, and a number of Icelandic residents of New York and other invited guests; the reception tendered the President and Foreign Minister on Sunday, August 27, by Dr. and Mrs. Helgi Briem, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, to which about forty guests were invited; and New York City's official reception to the President in the Mayor's office at the City Hall on Tuesday afternoon. The reception at the City Hall was accompanied by all the ceremonies, color and pagentry of a state occasion. The Mayor, in welcoming the president spoke in the warmest terms of Iceland and its Chief Executive, closing his

remarks with a few words in Icelandic, saying: "Lengi lifi islenzka lydveldid". (Long live the Republic of Iceland.)

It was a heart-warming experience for a native born Iclander to see the flag of his native land flying alongside the flag of the mighty United States, in the largest city on earth, to hear an army band in front of the City Hall of New York playing the Icelandic national anthem (O, Gud vors lands) and to note the friendly editorials in the metropolitan press. But the source of the greatest satisfaction was that of getting to know personally His Excellency, the President, to note his kindness, his calm dignity, and to hear him express himself very ably in excellent English. His Excellency the Foreign Minister is also a very able man. Iceland appears to be very fortunate in the selection of its present leaders, both in State and Church.

In his inaugural address on June 17th, the newly elected President prayed that God might give him "love and humility" in the exercise of his exalted office. This shows his inner man better than many long speeches, and it augurs well for the future of Iceland, in the opinion of all those who cherish Christian idealism, that its Chief Executive should enter his office of leadership in such a spirit.



A PRAYER—For All in the Armed Forces

By LYDIA H. HACKMAN

For all the sons who now are far from home
To serve our land

We pray, our Father, guard and guide them
ever

With Thy strong hand.

On land, on distant seas, or in the air,
Where'er they are, O keep them in Thy care.

For these, our men, now gone from our midst
To travel far,

Leaving behind their cherished, youthful
dreams

To fight in war,

We pray that in each grim and lonely hour
They may be strengthened by Thy help and
power.

E'en now, in this our dark and troubled night
The morning star

Shines with a promise that the light of dawn
Cannot be far:

We trust in Thee; for Thou art ruler still;
Our destinies are governed by Thy will.

Father of all mankind, Thy thoughts are
thoughts

Of love and peace;

Help us to learn Thy ways of brotherhood
That wars may cease.

Thy power alone, as we return to Thee,
Can heal this wounded world, and make it free.

(The Lutheran)

Funeral Address Delivered by the Pastor of the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, June 24, 1944 on the Occasion of the Funeral of

THE LATE BRANDUR JONSSON BRANDSON

B.A., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., (Can.), F.A.C.S., M.D. (Honoris Causa, Iceland) Grand Knight Commander of the Royal Icelandic Order of the Falcon, LL.D. (Honoris Causa, U. of Man.)

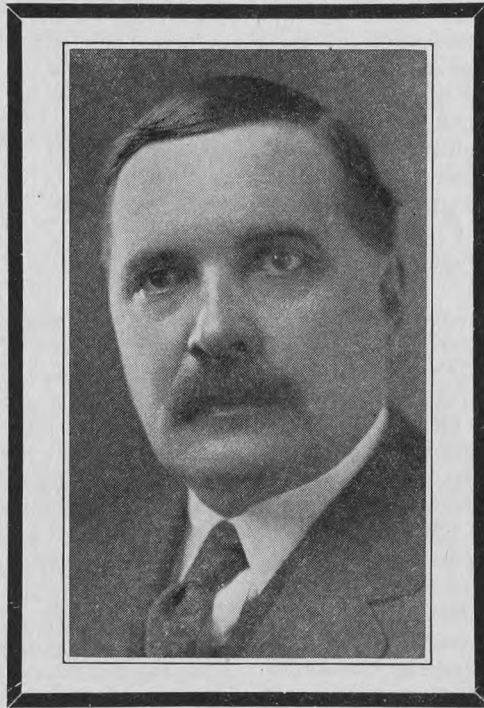
*"There is a prince, and a great man fallen
this day in Israel . . ."—2 Sam. 3:38.*

These words, found in the second book of Samuel, were used by David, the great king, concerning one of his most loyal subjects. They express admirably, I believe, the unuttered or expressed sentiments of a great host of people in Winnipeg, in Manitoba, in many parts of the United States and in Iceland on the occasion of the burial of our beloved Dr. Brandson. Although a son of the common people, he possessed many of the attributes we commonly associate with a prince. He was princely in his physical stature, in his dignified bearing, in his noble attitude and conduct as a professional man and as a private citizen. He was a great physician, a great humanitarian, and a good man in every sense of the word. There is a class of men that stands above the multitude. The physician belongs to that class as a rule. The physician is the flower of our civilization, and when this present stage of man is done with, and only remembered in history, he will be thought of as one having shared less than most in the defects of the period, but to have most notably exhibited its virtues. The good physician has generosity such as is possible only to those who practice an art, never to those who drive a trade; he has discretion, tested by a hundred secrets; he has tact tried in a thousand embarrassing situations; he has, and this is most important, Herculean cheerfulness and courage. Therefore it is that he brings air and cheer into the sickroom, and often, though not as often as he wishes, healing to the afflicted.

Among this class of men whose constant aim it is to alleviate suffering, to restore health,

to mend broken bodies and give hope to the distressed, Dr. Brandson ranked very highly in the unanimous opinion of his colleagues and of his constituency generally. This is long since a matter of record in the medical history of Manitoba, and has recently been reiterated by a very prominent member of his profession. I refer to the splendid tribute paid him by Dr. A. T. Mathers, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the local University, which institution

recently recognized his contribution to medical education, and his general personal worth by conferring upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. I refer also to an article which appeared editorially in one of the daily papers of this city last Thursday, under the caption: "Beloved Surgeon". "To them," the paper says, that is the common people, "he was our best loved surgeon, great-hearted, kindly, capable and ever so gentle and mild." Yes, he was indeed a beloved surgeon, one of those men of whom it may be truly said: "The bitter bowl of pain they sweeten till the weary rest, as though the hand of Christ had served and blest."



To his people he was not only a prince among physicians and surgeons, but a king. The esteem in which he was held by his patients frequently approached veneration. The dying, who knew themselves to be entirely beyond medical help, loved to have him call on them that they might feel his steady hand, and hear his reassuring voice. His presence and calm dignity seemed to drive out fear, even at the very gates of death.

But Dr. Brandson was not only a prince among the men of his own profession, but a great man in many other ways. He was a born

leader, and throughout his life he exercised unchallenged leadership in the community, particularly among his people. **He was a great humanitarian.** Down at Gimli, near the shores of Lake Winnipeg, in the pioneer settlement of our people in Manitoba, stands **Betel Old Folks' Home**, a splendid memorial to his broad human interests, to the range of his vision and the breadth of his love. I do not think that it is an overstatement to say that it is very doubtful that this splendid institution would exist today, were it not for Dr. Brandson. He adopted it a struggling infant institution in the first year of its existence, and it was under his guidance and by his inspiration that it began to make real progress. He was the leading spirit in this home, the object of the most profound admiration of its inmates, and so far as institutions go, I believe the home held first place in his affections. He visited the home frequently, and no one, save perhaps the members of his immediate family know the amount of financial and other support which he gave it in the course of the many years during which he was the President of its Board of Directors.

He was not only a skilful and eminently successful physician, and a great humanitarian, he was also a **great Christian**, if Christians can ever be spoken of as great. He took very active interest in the work of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of which he was a member. At our last congregational meeting he accepted nomination to be one of the representatives of this congregation at the 60th annual convention of the Synod. When the time came to attend the convention, his health did not permit him to go. When the news of his death was announced to the convention, a great hush came over the audience, and many were moved to tears. The Synod realized that its outstanding layman had been called. A resolution speaking of him as the pride of the community to which he gave his life, and expressing heartfelt sympathy and condolence to his widow and family, was promptly drawn up and unanimously adopted by a rising vote, followed by a silent prayer. The Synod realized, in the expression of the resolution "That we had lost one of the most excellent and most deeply revered members of our constituency."

But as a Christian, his loss will be most deeply felt in this congregation. Of the many outstanding laymen who have belonged to and served this congregation during the sixty-five years of its history, Dr. Brandson was one of the most distinguished. He served the congregation in the capacity of its president at various times totalling a larger number of years than any other man who has held that office. I can

in no better way express the sentiments of the congregation of the First Lutheran Church than by reading a resolution drawn up on its behalf by its president, Mr. G. F. Jonasson: "We, of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, gathered on the occasion of the funeral of our beloved Hon. President, Dr. Brandur J. Brandson, realize with profound sorrow that in his passing we have lost our most distinguished member, a man who for many decades was to us a constant source of strength and inspiration. But in the midst of our sorrow we are moved to heartfelt gratitude to God for Dr. Brandson's abiding interest in the work of the congregation, for his generous moral and financial support, for his untiring energy so freely expended in the service of the congregation as its President, and as a member of its Board of Trustees; for his unflinching loyalty, his wise counsel, and for his exemplary Christian life in the congregation, and in private and public life.

We pray God that we may ever be worthy of being associated with his memory, that his illustrious example may be a challenge and a benediction to our present and future membership. Above all, we pray God to sustain and comfort his dear widow, and the family in their bereavement."

"There is a prince and a great man fallen this day," a man "loved and respected more universally than any other Icelander who ever lived on this side of the Atlantic," in the words of Mr. Justice H. A. Bergman, a life long associate and friend, a verdict of which all of us, his countrymen will say: This is most certainly true. His life was singularly blessed by God, even unto the end. We expected he would be called many months ago, but he was given a lease on life that he might see four things happen, each and all of which rejoiced his heart greatly: He saw Bethel financially stable, ready to commence a program of expansion; he saw this Church, to which he had given so much of his time, burn its mortgage; he saw Iceland, the country of his birth, in the culture and progress of which he was always vitally interested, throw away the last vestige of foreign power and become a Republic. He saw himself the recipient of an honor which has come to no other Icelandic resident in Canada, when the University of Manitoba conferred upon him, on May 12th, the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Those of us who knew him will never forget him. In this Church we will remember him as the humble Christian, as a man of faith. He was, of all men, the most regular church attendant while his health permitted. That his Church attendance was not a matter of routine,

and that his faith was not mere formalism is evident by the abundance of his good works. He had so arranged it that an expression should be given to his faith at his funeral in the immortal words of Tennyson: "May there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark—I hope to see my pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar . . ." He was not afraid to confess the name of his pilot, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and spirit he lived and labored.

Just one final word. It is a word from him, spoken to this congregation, on the occasion of its Jubilee concert, Nov. 2nd, 1938. The concluding words of that address are particularly fitting as a farewell to the congregation and the community:

"We who are about to leave the stage salute you and bid you God speed. I hope you will not think it out of place here to remind you of the immortal words of Dr. McRae:

*"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be it yours to hold high;
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep."*

Be faithful to those who have gone before. Honor the memory of the founders of this Church by being loyal to the faith that made them strong in the midst of their trials, and make it your constant prayer that the faith of the fathers may be the sustaining force of your own lives."

WHENCE—WHY—WHITHER

The Bible is the only book which answers these fundamental questions of religion and philosophy. The voice of nature and our intuition are not sufficient guides in these matters. No man can find God apart from the Bible in which he has revealed Himself, and through which He makes known the salvation He has provided in Christ Jesus for those who believe and accept Him as their Savior, guardian and guide. The Bible is inspired by God. It claims to be so inspired and the claim is vindicated by human experience. There are many theories of inspiration, none of them entirely satisfactory to human reason. After having examined them all, we feel inclined to fall back upon the simple answer given by Dwight L. Moody: "I know the Bible is inspired because it inspires me." But I hear people say: Has not science discredited the Bible? Has not the doctrine of evolution replaced the creation story of Genesis? It not the Biblical doctrine of sin and human depravity incompatible with the nobility and dignity of man? These are important questions. Nobody wants to be unscientific these days. But our minds should be entirely at rest in regard to these

matters. The Bible has no quarrel with science; it deals with matters and principles which science can never touch. Instead of contradicting science, the Bible supplements science, gives it a motive and a meaning. The theory of evolution which many people think has made Biblical Christianity unacceptable to modern man, has simply nothing to do with the Bible or its teachings. It is a theory concerning the orderly change in the form of things. It has nothing authentic to say as to a first cause; hence it does not contradict the first statement of the Bible: "In the beginning God created . . ." As to the nobility and dignity of man, I simply refer you to the newspapers. When we think about the Bible let us not forget that it is not a revelation of mathematics, or of geology, or of civics, or of biology, or of any other science, it is first and foremost a book of religion and of morals. Its fundamental purpose is to tell men and women how they may be saved for eternity, and how all men ought to live together as brethren. The very centre of this message, its sum and substance is found in John 3: 16: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

It is our duty and privilege as Christians to use this book. It is not a charm to be carried in your purse or pocket, nor is it intended as a decoration for your mantle piece. Read this book, pray over it. Go to Church whenever you have an opportunity and hear it expounded. But someone will say: I know the doctrine and the exhortations which will be set forth in the sermon, and I know the hymns too. That is all to the good. But you have eaten the same kind of food for years, and liked it, and lived by it. Why should you be reluctant to partake again and again of that spiritual food which God provided in His Word, which is the Bread of Life?

VISIT TO THE J. P. MORGAN HOME

While in New York, the last week of August, the Editor and Consul G. L. Johansson visited the former home of John Pierpont Morgan, who in his day was perhaps the world's greatest genius in "high finance", and a great philanthropist. This home, a mansion of four stories, containing 45 rooms, valued at \$950,000, was recently purchased by the United Lutheran Church in America, and now serves as its headquarters. Dr. E. A. Tappert, the Linguistic Secretary of the Board of American Missions of the U.L.C.A., and its delegate to our recent Argyle Church Convention, conducted us through the building, showed us many things of historic interest, and introduced us to several leaders of this great Church body.